

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

**20. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction apparatus which reads and reproduces audio information and ~~another kind of other~~ information, from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of the other~~ information are recorded, characterized in that: ~~the reproduction apparatus includes, the reproduction apparatus comprising:~~

a reading ~~means~~ section for reading, ~~from the recording medium,~~ the audio information ~~from the record medium, and reading, from the record medium, another kind of~~ and the other information, recorded in a different position, on the recording medium, from ~~the a~~ position of the audio information; ~~information;~~

a capacity-lowering ~~means~~ section for lowering ~~the a~~ capacity of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~ section;

an audio storing ~~means~~ section for storing the audio information having a lowered capacity; ~~whose capacity is lowered by the capacity-lowering means,~~

an audio reproducing ~~means~~ section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~means~~ section;

an ~~another kind of information~~ other information storing ~~means~~ section for storing ~~another kind of the other~~ information read by the reading ~~means~~ section; and

an ~~another kind of information~~ other information reproducing ~~means~~ section for reproducing ~~another kind of the other~~ information stored in the ~~another kind of information~~ other information storing ~~means~~ section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information~~ information and second audio information, ~~which is the second audio information being~~ continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

the capacity-lowering ~~means~~ section lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading ~~means~~ section, so, such that ~~the reading of the second audio information is completed read before the reproduction of the first audio information is completed, for during the~~ a period of time when ~~another kind of the other~~ information is reproduced by the ~~another kind of other~~ information reproducing ~~means~~ section, and outputs a part of the first audio information

having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

**21. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that ~~another kind of the other~~ information is at least ~~either of~~ image information ~~and or~~ video information.

**22. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section lowers ~~the a~~ sampling frequency of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**23. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section reduces ~~the a~~ quantization bit number of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**24. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section detects at least one of ~~a~~the silent interval, an interlude interval, a prelude interval, and a voiceless interval, ~~of in~~ the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, and lowers the capacity of only the part which corresponds to at least the one of the silent interval, the interlude interval, the prelude interval, and the voiceless interval.

**25. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in accordance with a the sound volume of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**26. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in

accordance with at least either of ~~the quantity of a change in the sound pitch and or the quantity of a change in the sound loudness of the audio information read by the reading means~~section.

**27. (Cancelled)**

**28. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the storage capacity of the audio storing ~~means~~section.

**29. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the recording medium, where the audio information and ~~another kind of the other~~ information are recorded, is a disk-shaped rotary recording medium.

**30. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29, characterized in that ~~in-on~~ the disk-shaped rotary recording medium, information is recorded using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a combination of some of these phenomena.

**31. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 30, characterized in that the reading ~~means~~section includes a head, which executes a scan on the disk-shaped rotary recording medium and reads information recorded ~~thereon-on the medium~~ using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a combination of some of these phenomena.

**32. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 31, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the movement speed of the head.

**33. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 32, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on ~~the~~a movement speed of the ~~a~~head and the ~~a~~storage capacity of the audio storing ~~means~~section.

**34. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the position on the recording medium ~~in which~~where the audio information is recorded and the position on the recording medium ~~in which~~where the ~~another kind of~~other information is recorded.

**35. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction processing circuit which reproduces audio information and ~~another kind of~~other information read from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of~~the other information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~  
~~the reproduction processing circuit includes, the reproduction processing circuit comprising:~~

an information deciding section for deciding ~~which whether~~ the information read from the recording medium is, ~~the is~~the audio information or ~~another kind of~~the other information;

a capacity-lowering section for lowering a capacity of the audio information and storing the audio information having a lowered capacity in an audio storing section, if the decision is made it is determined that the information read from the record medium is the audio information, ~~then lowering the capacity of the audio information and storing the audio information whose capacity is lowered in an audio storing section;~~ and

an expanding section for expanding the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~section;~~section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information;~~information and second audio information, ~~the second audio information being which is~~ continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

the capacity-lowering section lowers the capacity of the first audio information, expanded by the expanding section, ~~so such that the reading of~~ the second audio information is ~~completed~~read before the reproduction of the first audio information is completed, ~~and outputs a part of the first audio information having a lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio~~

information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

**36. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction method for reading and reproducing audio information and ~~another kind of the~~ other information from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of the~~ other information are recorded, characterized in that: the reproduction method includes the reproduction method comprising:

~~an audio information reading step of reading, from the recording medium, the audio information; from the record medium;~~

~~a capacity-lowering step of lowering the a capacity of the read audio information read in the audio information reading step;~~

~~an audio storing step of storing, in an audio storing meanssection, the audio information having a lowered capacity; whose capacity is lowered in the capacity-lowering step;~~

~~an audio reproducing step of reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing meanssection,~~

~~an another kind of information reading step of reading, from the recording medium, another kind of the other information recorded in a different position from the a position of the audio information; information;~~

~~an another kind of information storing step of storing, in an another kind of informatioother information storing meanssection, another kind of the read other information read in the another kind of information reading step, and~~

~~an another kind of information reproducing step of reproducing another kind of the other information stored in the another kind of informationother information storing means; wherein~~

~~the audio information includes first audio information; information and second audio information, the second audio information being which is continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and~~

~~in the capacity-lowering step, the capacity of the read first audio information read in the audio information reading step is lowered, so such that the reading of the second audio information is completed read before the reproduction of the first audio information is completed, for during a the period of time when another kind of the other information is~~

~~reproduced in the another kind of information reproducing step, and outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.~~

**37. (Currently Amended)** A computer-readable recording medium ~~where on which~~ a reproduction program is recorded, the reproduction program for reading and reproducing audio information and ~~another kind of other~~ information from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of the other~~ information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~ the reproduction program allows a computer to function as, the reproduction program comprising:

a reading ~~means~~section for reading, ~~from the recording medium, the audio information from the record medium, and reading, from the record medium, another kind of and the other~~ information, recorded in a different position from ~~the a~~ position of the audio ~~information; information;~~

a capacity-lowering ~~means~~section for lowering ~~the a~~ capacity of the audio information read by the reading ~~means;~~section;

an audio storing ~~means~~section for storing the audio information ~~whose capacity is lowered by the capacity-lowering means, having a lowered capacity;~~

an audio reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~means~~section,

an ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means~~section for storing ~~another kind of the other~~ information read by the reading ~~means~~section, and

an ~~another kind of information~~other information reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing ~~another kind of the other~~ information stored in the ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means;~~section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information; information~~ and second audio information, ~~the second audio information being which is~~ continuously reproduced after the first audio information; ~~and, and~~

the capacity-lowering meanssection lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading meanssection, so such that the reading of the second audio information is completed read before the reproduction of the first audio information is completed, for during the a period of time when another kind of the other information is reproduced by the another kind of information other information reproducing meanssection, and outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.